St Leonard's CE Primary School
Art Policy

Approved by:	**QofE Committee**
Date:	**October 2026**
Next review due by:	**October 2029**

St Leonard's is a Church of England School. All policies implemented across the school support the creation of a learning culture which celebrates our Christian vision of preparing children for "Life in All its Fullness" and our core values of Love, Respect and Responsibility.

This policy aims to give all members of the school community clear guidance with regard to the Intent, Implementation and Impact of effective teaching of Art and Design at St Leonard's Primary School.

'Art has the role in education of helping children to become like themselves instead of more like everyone else'
Sydney Gurewwitz Clemens

Intent:

At St Leonard's C.E Primary School, we want to engage, challenge and inspire pupils through art and design by introducing them to a broad range of techniques, materials and artists and designers. We aim to deliver a curriculum which is accessible to all and allows curiosity, creativity and self-expression to develop alongside resilience, confidence and critical thinking skills.

We want to equip children with the knowledge and skills to experiment, explore, take risks, invent and create. Our art curriculum will enable our children to explore their own identity as well developing respect and connections with others. Most importantly, we want them to foster a positive, life-long relationship with the subject in order to live life in all its fullness.

Implementation:

The skills and knowledge that children will develop throughout each art topic are mapped across each year group and are progressive throughout the school. The emphasis on knowledge ensures that children understand the context of the artwork, as well as the artists that they are learning about and being inspired by. This enables links to other curriculum areas, including humanities, with children developing a knowledge of individual artists, as well as individual works and art movements within a context of the wider curriculum. A similar systematic approach to the development of artistic skills means that children are given opportunities to express their creative imagination, as well as practise and develop mastery in the key processes of art: drawing, painting, printing, textiles, sculpture, collage, digital media as well as taking inspiration from the greats (classic and modern).

Each lesson begins with a recap of sticky knowledge from previous the session, term or year. This helps children to retrieve what they have learnt in the earlier sequence of the programme of study and ensures that new knowledge is taught in the context of previous learning to promote a shift in long term memory. Key vocabulary for the topic is also explored in each lesson; this provides definitions and accompanying visuals for each word to ensure accessibility to all. This approach also means that children are able to understand the new vocabulary when it is used in teaching and learning activities and apply it themselves when they approach their work. Sketchbooks will be fully utilised in years 1-6 and will be used by children to develop their style, creative thinking and artistic identity.

A sequence of learning at St Leonard's C.E. Primary school:

1. Firstly, primary resources are explored and children are encouraged to engage critically with art works, individual artists or art movements.

2. Children are then exposed to activities to allow for analytical drawing and use of sketchbooks to capture examples of works to inspire their own creativity.

3. Next, children develop their artistic knowledge and skills through experimentation with materials and techniques. This is process driven rather than product driven.

4. Finally, children will create a personal response.

Impact:

The structure of the art curriculum ensures that children are able to develop their knowledge and understanding of the work of artists and designers from a range of times and cultures and apply this knowledge to their own work. The consistent use of sketchbooks from years 1-6 means that all children are able to review, modify and develop their creative thought processes in order to achieve high quality outcomes. Children learn to understand and apply the key principles of art: line, tone, texture, shape, form, space, pattern, colour, contrast, composition, proportion and perspective. The opportunity for children to refine and develop their techniques over time is supported by effective lesson sequencing and progression between year groups.

Through art, children at St Leonard's C.E. Primary School are curious, self-reflective, problem solvers, and are able to express themselves and explore their own identity within their community.